

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-05 SY-05 /078 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1040

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION NATO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6799

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IT, LY

SUBJECT: THE LIBYANS IN PANTELLERIA

1. IN LATE 1974 IT WAS REPORTED LIBYANS HAD PURCHASED A SIZE-ABLE PIECE OF ITALIAN ISLAND OF PANTELLERIA, BETWEEN SICILY AND TUNISIA. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, A LIBYAN TOURIST INTERESTS HAD ACQUIRED 150 ACRES OF MOUNTAIN LAND OVERLOOKING PROPERTY BEING DEVELOPED "BY NATO". THE SITE COMMANDS THE SMALL AIRPORT AND FACES MONTAGNA GRANDE ON WHICH A HIGH-POWERED RADAR WAS INSTALLED SEVERAL MONTHS EARLIER. A NATO-FINANCED RADAR STATION ON THE ISLAND IS PROGRAMMED FOR THIS YEAR.

2. WHILE VISITING NATO DIRECTORATE AT MFA, EMBOFF FOUND HIMSELF ON MARGIN OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN DIRECTOR SALLEO AND MFA MIDDLE EAST DIRECTOR ATTOLICO. ATTOLICO INDICATED THAT INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE SENT TO PREFECT OF TRAPANI, SICILY (UNDER WHOM PANTELLERIA FALLS), THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD LIBYANS (THOUGH THEY HAVE UNQUESTIONABLY ACQUIRED LAND LEGALLY) BE PERMITTED TO BUILD ANYTHING ON IT. ATTOLICO MADE CLEAR THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT SECURITY MATTER. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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